

Blissymbolics Communication Foundation

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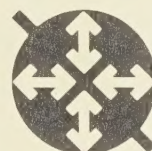
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JUNE 1977

VOLUME II NUMBER 2



BULLETIN



WORKSHOPS

Past and Present

We have been extremely busy this spring, conducting a series of Elementary Workshops. Workshops have been held in St. Paul, Minnesota; St. John's, Newfoundland; Linköping, Sweden; and Vancouver, British Columbia.

As announced in the last Bulletin, we also held a two day Up-Grading Workshop. This workshop was for those who had previously received some type of symbol instruction which was not accredited as an Elementary Workshop.

The Advanced Symbol Workshop rounded out the April Schedule.

Future

In the future, we will be conducting workshops in ATLANTA at Georgia State University, June 14-17. For information concerning this, please contact: Mrs. Caroline Price, 741 Northern Avenue, J-4, Clarkston, Georgia 30021.

There will also be an Elementary Workshop in DOYLESTOWN, Pennsylvania, August 29-September 1, sponsored by the Bucks County Schools, Intermediate Unit 22.

Another Workshop will be held August 29-September 1 in OTTAWA, Ontario at the Ottawa BCF Resource Centre. For

information about this, contact Mrs. Anne Warrick, Ottawa Crippled Children's Treatment Centre, P.O. Box 8469, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3H9.

We have now finalized arrangements to hold a Workshop in CALGARY, Alberta, October 19-22. Enquiries should be directed to Miss Caroline Dunsmore, Speech & Hearing Department, Alberta Children's Hospital, 1820 Richmond Rd. S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2T 5C7.

In addition, 2 Elementary Workshops are being planned in the United Kingdom this summer - one in ENGLAND in July and one in SCOTLAND in August. Contact Ena Davies, Blissymbolics Communication Resource Centre, c/o Institute of Higher Education, Western Avenue, Llandaff, Cardiff, Wales CF5 2YB.

A major undertaking in TORONTO this summer will be an 8-day course to be held July 11-20 at the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre. The first five days will be an Elementary Workshop(A). The last three days will be a special interest session dealing with Symbols and the Mentally Retarded(B). Fees for this course will be as follows:

July 11-20 (Course A & B)	\$275
July 11-15 (Course A)	\$200
July 18-20 (Course B)	\$120

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Preference will be given to those registering for the whole Workshop (Course A & B); however, a limited number of applications will be accepted for (a) Course A, (b) Course B provided the applicant has previously attended an Elementary Workshop. For further information and applications, contact Mrs. Ali Klaehn at the BCF.

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IN-SERVICE PROGRAMME

In March of 1977 Blissymbolics began its first In-Service (Internship) Programme. Participants in this Programme were:

PATRICIA BAILEY, Teacher, England
BRITT CARLSSON, Teacher, Sweden
ENA DAVIES, Speech Pathologist, Wales
JOAN HAMBLY, Teacher, Regina, Sask.
JILL HAMMOND, O.T., England
JOAN HURREN, Teacher, Australia
KERSTIN LORSTROM, Speech Therapist,
Sweden
KERSTIN WESTER, O.T., Sweden

During the Programme all the participants attended both the Workshop Pre-senior Certificate Course and the Advanced Workshop held at the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre in April. A number of the visitors also attended the Up-Grading Workshop during the same month, and the Elementary Workshop which was held in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Participants had the opportunity to visit settings in different parts of Canada and the U.S.A.

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INTERNSHIP ("In-Service" Renamed)

To provide instructor training and involvement in programmes applying Blissymbols in various ways, two internship programmes are being planned for the 1977-78 school year. This programme is directed primarily towards professionals from countries outside North America who will be assuming responsibility for the initial development of Blissymbol

Communication in their country or region. Enquiries have been received from West Germany, Holland and Belgium. The programme will include an Elementary Workshop, visits to settings, and an Advanced Workshop. Professionals interested in further details should contact Ann Kennedy. Dates for Fall Internship -- October 17-November 18.

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INTERNATIONAL SCENE

As indicated by the internship programme, the international use of Blissymbolics is growing. To date, contact can be made with the following people:

AUSTRALIA

- . Joan Hurren, 8 Yarrow Place,
O'Connor, ACT 2601, Australia

ISRAEL

- . Judy Seligman-Wine, Ramat Motza,
Jerusalem, Israel

SWEDEN

- . Annagreta Malmstrom-Groth, Chairman, Steering Committee for the Application of Blissymbolics, Ped. Habil. Ekhaga 58255, Linkoping, Sweden

UNITED KINGDOM

- . Ena Davies, National Advisor, Blissymbolics Communication Resource Centre, c/o Institute of Higher Education, Western Avenue, Llandaff, Cardiff, Wales CF5 2YB.

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ADVANCED WORKSHOPS

The dates for the next Advanced Workshop to be held by the BCF are November 2, 3, 4. Details as to the programme content and application forms will be available upon request from the BCF after August 31, 1977. There will not be a general mailing concerning this workshop.

At this stage of symbol application, there are many divergent views as to the function to be served by a second

training workshop for instructors who have acquired some experience in the application of Blissymbolics. The BCF's initial purpose was to up-date instructors regarding the development of the symbol system as this becomes formalized through BCF projects and publications. These workshops have also tried to provide for a "sharing" by experienced instructors and the opportunity for them to influence the direction of development and research.

As a result of the feedback following the April Advanced Workshop, we realize that the many different needs of instructors may require the development of alternate types of advanced instructor programmes. Valuable evaluation of the April Advanced Workshop was given by the attendants. Their comments and ideas for future Workshops will be considered at the meeting of the Programme Advisory Committee, July 5 and 6, 1977.

Until a final format or formats for Advanced training is developed, these Workshops will be held in Toronto.

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WORKSHOP PRESENTOR CERTIFICATE COURSE

A Workshop Presentor Certificate course is being given July 7-8 prior to the Elementary Workshop. Enrolment for this is filled. However, the next course will be offered November 10-11, 1977.

This training is being given in order to develop Workshop Presentors able to participate in Blissymbol Workshops across North America.

Instructors who are interested in receiving this training and joining the BCF Presentor Pool, should direct their enquiries to Shirley McNaughton.

Requirements include 2 years experience in symbol instruction and accreditation at the Elementary and Advanced level.

RESOURCE CENTRES

With the Kellogg Foundation grant, awarded in the Fall of 1976, we are expanding our Resource Centre structure to meet the rapidly growing use of Blissymbolics. In North America, sites for Centres will be geographically selected to serve as a liaison between BCF, other Resource Centres and local programmes. Major responsibilities of Resource Centres will be to present Elementary Workshops; to provide professional follow-up and consultation; to serve as visitation sites to local programmes; to offer public information and community orientation talks. Resource Centres will house loan materials, video tapes, films and slides as support for accomplishing these objectives.

Co-ordinating Committees, focusing the interests of different disciplines using Blissymbolics with different populations, have formed in a number of areas, and this creates a healthy base upon which to establish a Resource Centre.

The following are our Resource Centres:

CALGARY

- . Mrs. Dale Sutherland
Resource Centre Director
Speech and Hearing Department
Alberta Children's Hospital
1820 Richmond Road S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2T 5C7

MONTREAL

- . Mrs. Keila Waksvik
Resource Centre Director
Occupational Therapy Department
MacKay Centre
3500 Decarie Blvd.
Montreal, Quebec H4A 3J5

OTTAWA

- . Mrs. Anne Warrick
Resource Centre Director
Ottawa Crippled Children's
Treatment Centre
P.O. Box 8469
Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3H9

SARNIA

- . Mrs. Elaine Jones
Resource Centre Director
Sarnia & District Crippled
Children's Centre
1240 Murphy Road
Sarnia, Ontario N7S 2Y6

TORONTO

- . Mr. Maurice Izzard
Principal
Ontario Crippled Children's
Centre School
350 Rumsey Road
Toronto, Ontario M4G 1R8

UNITED KINGDOM

- . Ena Davies
National Advisor, Blissymbolics
Communication Resource Centre
c/o Institute of Higher Education
Western Avenue
Llandaff, Cardiff, Wales CF5 2YB

VANCOUVER

- . Margaret McCuaig
Resource Centre Director
Sunny Hill Hospital for Children
2755 East 21st Avenue
Vancouver, B.C. V5M 2W3

An alternative structure has been developing on a community level where Blissymbolic instructors feel the need to offer consultant services, orientation, in-service training, and a sharing of experiences and concerns within their local region. We are calling this activity "Blissymbolics Community Service". A Community Service could lead to the establishment of a Resource Centre or could continue to provide information on a local basis without assuming Workshop Instruction responsibility.

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LOAN MATERIALS

As outlined in the last Bulletin, there are audio visual loan materials available from the BCF. The following gives some detail regarding the content of each:

VIDEO TAPES - \$10 Service Charge

Sensory City - 40 minutes

- . General outline of three levels of symbol classrooms at OCCC
- . Kindergarten, severely involved, advanced
- . Teacher explanation of programme and classroom scenes.

Parent Involvement - 30 minutes

- . Ruth Harrington relating family experiences with a symbol user
- . How it has affected their family and circle of friends.

Individual Children - 20 minutes

- . One child at elementary level, one at fluent level and severely involved child
- . Classroom - news - structuring concept of opposite
- . Short segment on a reading lesson

Joseph Kaebler School - 50 minutes

- . Integration of symbol user into regular school system
- . Question and answer session by principal and teacher re problems they faced followed by scenes of child in school setting.

FILMS - \$15 Service Charge

MacKay Centre, Montreal - 10 minutes

- . 16 mm colour film
- . Interview with Shirley McNaughton, short sequence of Mr. Bliss from "Mr. Symbol Man", scenes of child in class at MacKay and at home, interview with his teacher and parents.

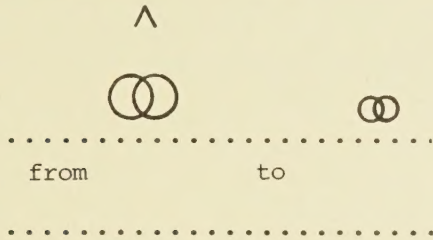
CASSETTE TAPE - \$3 Service Charge

- . Sound from "Parent Involvement" videotape.

Materials must be returned to the BCF office one week after the viewing date as loan items are in short supply. The service charge will be increased by 50% for each day that materials are overdue. Invoices will be sent out after the materials have been returned. All bookings should be directed to Shirley White at the BCF Office.

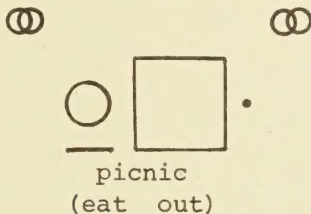
NEW COMBINE INDICATOR

The combine indicator has recently been simplified



The action indicator has been deleted and the intersecting circles reduced to quarter size, i.e. the same size as the indicators for make action, plural, etc. It is still placed one-quarter space above the matrix in which the affected symbol expression is drawn.

A combine indicator must precede and follow a combined symbol created for personal use by a symbol user or instructor. For example,



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SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION

Anyone who wishes to have an article concerning Blissymbolics published is asked to first submit that article to the BCF to ensure that the standardized form of the symbols appears. Please send your manuscript to Jinny Storr at the BCF office.

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NATIONAL FILM BOARD SLIDES

We anticipate that the slides will be available for loan by mid-July. Those people who have enquired will be notified as soon as they are ready.

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HANDBOOK

The Handbook for Instructors, Users, Parents and Administrators is progressing towards completion. Everyone on the current BCF mailing list will be notified when it is available for sale.

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NATIONAL FILM BOARD CANADIAN SCHOOL TELECASTS

Through the work of the NFB, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, a shortened version of "Mr. Symbol Man" was produced as a TV programme, shown May 4 on Canadian School Telecasts. This made possible exposure of Blissymbolics to all elementary school-aged children in Canada.

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Mr. Bliss arrived in Toronto on May 25th. During his stay, we look forward to receiving his consultation on many symbol projects.

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REPORT ON ON-GOING PROJECTS

BLISSCOM

Dr. Peter Reich, psycholinguist at the University of Toronto has provided consultation with regard to the vocabulary for the new Blisscom. Developed by David Kelso of the TRACE Center, the Blisscom, fashioned after the Autocom, is a portable Blissymbol printing communication aid. 464 symbols will be displayed on the Blisscom and through use of its several levels, up to 800 symbols with appropriate translation print-out will be available to the user. The prototype will be field tested by the BCF during the 1977-78 school year. An evaluation report will follow. A paper on this aid written by Dr. H. Silverman and David Kelso has been presented at the Conference on Systems and Devices for the Disabled in Seattle, Washington.

DISPLAYS

Work is progressing on the development of a new 512 standardized display and on stamps to be applied to 100, 256, and 512 individualized displays. Plans are for the BCF to distribute blank grids and stamps so that vocabularies can be constructed to suit the user. Information as to cost and availability will be distributed as soon as finalized.

BLISSYMBOLICS DICTIONARY

The BCF has received funding from the Atkinson Charitable Foundation to prepare a dictionary of Blissymbols. This dictionary is to be published late in 1978, and is being compiled and edited by Barbara Hehner, M.A.

The dictionary will be divided into two sections: Symbol-to-Word, and Word-to-Symbol. The arrangement of the Symbol-to-Word section has been devised by Dr. Reich. The ordering of this section will depend solely upon the arrangement of lines and shapes in the symbol, and the user will not need to know the meaning or derivation of a given symbol in order to look it up. The Word-to-Symbol section will be arranged alphabetically and will include in its entries a number of cross-referenced synonyms.

All symbols in the 512 vocabulary (being developed) will appear in the dictionary and, it is hoped a substantial number of new symbols will be included. Some of the criteria governing selection of new symbols will be: that they are included on lists of requests made to the BCF by symbol instructors and/or users and that the meanings they represent appear on lists of high frequency English words in such compilations as Basic English and the American Heritage Word Frequency Book.

In conjunction with the preparation of the dictionary, all the master

symbols are being redrawn by Jim Grice, draftsman at the OCCC. The new symbol drawings will be used in all BCF materials, aids and publications. Copies of required symbols will be available upon request for any publication.

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NEW SYMBOLS

We are interested in knowing of those meanings for which you have required symbols, that do not appear on the 400 symbol display. We also invite you to send to the BCF "combine symbols" which have been devised in your setting and which you feel warrant consideration for inclusion within the system of Blissymbolics.

The procedure for such new symbols:

1. Your "combine symbol" is submitted to C.K. Bliss for his reaction and suggestions.
2. Staff in the BCF symbol department study the symbol and make comments (based on information regarding the application of Blissymbols derived from the Evaluation Study.)
3. The symbol, with all comments and suggestions, is examined by Dr. Harry Silverman, named as arbiter in the BCF's legal agreement with Charles K. Bliss. Dr. Silverman decides if the symbol is compatible with the system of Blissymbolics and if it is appropriate for application with the non-speaking person (with particular attention as to its meaningfulness to children).
4. If Dr. Silverman decides that the symbol will be added to the standard Blissymbol vocabulary, the symbol will be considered for inclusion in the dictionary.

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ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Just a reminder: this edition of the Bulletin will be the last copy sent to those people on our general mailing list. In future, only Associate Members will receive the Bulletin.

Associate Membership is open to anyone interested in the use, teaching and application of Blissymbolics. These interests, supported by the desire to further promote the standardization of Blissymbols are the only prerequisites.

A membership fee of \$5.00 is due at the time of application. As an Associate Member of the BCF you will receive the three Bulletins published during our next fiscal year ending June 30, 1978. An application form is enclosed should you wish to apply.

We anticipate your support and look forward to hearing from you.

Questionnaire Results

From the response to the questionnaire attached to the Associate Membership application, to date the following statistics have been produced. Blissymbols are being used as follows:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Number</u>
Communication.....	122
Language Development.....	79
Cognitive Development.....	40
Development of reading skills.	19
International communication...	1
Other (prisoners, research)...	7

<u>Population</u>	<u>Number</u>
Physically-handicapped.....	81
Mentally retarded.....	79
Multiply-handicapped.....	67
Deaf.....	16
Aphasic.....	19
Autistic.....	8
Blind.....	4
Stroke patients.....	13
Delayed language development..	25
Normal.....	5
Other.....	4
(clinicians, emotionally disturbed, etc.)	

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Number</u>
Preschoolers.....	44
Children ages 5-12.....	92
Adolescents ages 13-21.....	58
Adults.....	25

<u>Symbol Users</u>	<u>Number</u>
Current.....	558
Future.....	604
Discontinued.....	98

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As of May 20, 1977 there are 2008 people on our mailing list, representing 28 countries.

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NEWSLETTER

The summer Newsletter will conclude the 1976-77 enrolment. Forms for renewal will be mailed with the Summer edition.

The Newsletter is printed 3 times a year: Fall, Spring and Summer. It is a compilation of articles relating to personal experiences of those involved with the Blissymbol system. Subscribers' articles are the mainstay of the Newsletter and as a subscriber you are encouraged to share your symbol news. A subscription form is enclosed.

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POSITION OPEN

Speech Pathologist CCC-SP with Bliss training. Department of 6 in a multidisciplinary rehabilitation centre. Salary \$13,200. Contact: Eleanor Kauffman, Blythedale Children's Hospital, Valhalla, N.Y. 10595 (20 miles north of New York City).

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BCF POSITIONS

Because of the expansion of the BCF, staff additions are projected beginning July 1977. Those with experience in symbol communication instruction and interested in programme administrative work with the BCF Toronto, or in becoming a Workshop Presenter are invited to write to Shirley McNaughton, including resume, area of interest, dates when available.

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BCF STAFF CHANGES

Barbara Kates. Our Associate Programme Director is leaving the BCF this summer to take up residence in Ottawa. As one of the founding members of BCF, Barbara's experience with symbol communication and professional knowledge have allowed her to make a unique and valuable contribution to the structure and programme of the BCF. She will be greatly missed.

Margaret Schmieder. Effective April 12, Margaret has been appointed Liaison Officer. Her major responsibilities include acting as an information source on Blissymbolics for government, guidance on funding, and liaison with institutions having to deal with the new phenomenon of the participating non-speaking person. This appointment is made possible by a grant from Health & Welfare Canada.

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BCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS: G.A. Wilson, Chairman; T.N. Davidson, J.A. MacDonald, F.S. Mallett, W. Muter, A.W. Robinson; Secretary, J.C. Lemire.

BCF STAFF: H. Silverman, Executive Director; PROGRAMME SECTION: S. McNaughton, Director; B. Kates, Assoc. Director; B. Quiggan, Admin. Asst., Symbols-J. Storr, P. Ashmead, B. MacKay; Workshops-A. Kennedy, Coordinator; A. Klaehn, Admin. Asst. Resource Centres-M. Buchanan, Consultant; Liaison-M. Schmieder. ADMINISTRATION SECTION: T. Campbell, Administrator; S. White, Office Manager; T. Nguyen, Order Desk; B. Cooper, Secretary; Support Staff: S. Hampson, D. McNaughton, P. Jones, W. Atkinson. Volunteers-H. Colbran, N. Cole, A. McAlpine.

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